Potentially relevant articles identified in Embase (N=1809)

Pubmed Search (N=4549 articles)

- Removal of case reports, dictionaries and news.
- Restriction of publication date (1986 to April 2011)
  (N=2316)

Additional relevant articles identified in DARE and MEDION databases (N=0)

Discarded 635 duplicates
N=3407 titles and abstracts

Reasons for excluding studies after reading title and abstract included:
- Use of modified Alvarado score
- Inappropriate patient cohort e.g. pregnant women
- Use of other scoring systems
  (N=3316)

Full text retrieved (N=91)

Reason for exclusion included:
- Inappropriate patient cohort  (N=6)
- Use of modified Alvarado score  (N=3)
- Inappropriate Score breakdown  (N=11)
- No new data  (N=13)
- Use of other scores  (N=4)
- Other  (N=10)

After correspondence with authors:
- Could not split data in age groups  (N=4)
- No response from authors  (N=3)

Included (N=37)

Citation and Reference search (N=5)

Included studies (N=42)